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**ABSTRACT**

According to the present invention, a steer-axle assembly includes sealant compressible shim fills a gap between an axle segment and a steering knuckle assembly that surrounds the kingpin. The sealant compressible shim has a first substantially rigid shim layer disposed about the kingpin body and in contact with the upper receiving portion of the steering knuckle assembly, a second substantially rigid shim layer disposed about the kingpin body and in contact with the axle segment, and at least one compressible shim layer between the first and second substantially rigid shim layers. The sealant compressible shim eliminates or reduces the entry of foreign matter into the interface between the kingpin and the steering knuckle assembly

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